

Spring 1-15-2011

ENG 2001-001

Olga Abella
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2011



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Abella, Olga, "ENG 2001-001" (2011). *Spring 2011*. 51.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2011/51

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2011 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2011 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

ENGLISH 2001

Dr. Olga Abella (olgafox@hotmail.com)
3325 Coleman (6297)

Office Hours: MWF 11-1
and by appointment

I. **TEXTS:**

Writing Creative Nonfiction [WCN]

Writing Truth [WT]

To Tell the Truth [TTT]

Now Write! Nonfiction [NWN]

II. **ASSIGNMENTS** (with appropriate grade % for each):

1. **Portfolio:** A **manuscript** consisting of the various drafts, including the very first one and especially the final, finished draft of **4 essays** of about **1000 words each** that you will have worked on during the semester. The different drafts will enable me to evaluate the progress you have made for each essay. We will discuss all of these in a workshop format in class, and **the final draft will be due 1 week after it has been work-shopped. Final manuscript of 4 essays due April 29.** (50%)
 2. **Journals.** This will be a log of your responses to the readings you will be doing throughout the semester from the course texts. To be a writer, you must be a reader. In order to know what you think and feel, you must know what and how others think and feel—and how they express those ideas and emotions. Writers do not live in isolation. They are always learning from each other. “We discover who we and what we have to say through life and dialogue with others” (Catherine Hobbs). Therefore, you must read, and think about what you read. At the top of each entry you must write the work’s title, writer’s name, book’s name, and page#. For each essay, you will first write your initial thoughts/reactions/feelings and then reflect more fully on various elements of the essay, such as details, character, dialogue, point of view, tone scene, metaphor. By looking at the readings more closely, at the parts that appealed or did not appeal to you, you will learn how to craft better your own writing. In this journal, you are studying other writers’ words to understand better what makes an essay work well. By being a more careful **reader** of essays, you will become a better **writer** of essays, and will also be able to edit your writing with a more objective eye. The **journal will be collected 3 times** during the semester, and a final grade will be given at the end. (25%)
 3. **Participation:** The main focus of this class is **your** writing. We will spend the semester discussing and critiquing your essays in a workshop format. Your response to one another’s essays is a crucial part of class. As each other’s audience, you **must** provide **feedback** for the essays presented in class. You will also **need to provide copies for the class of each essay you will workshop—you need to give the class copies during the class prior to the one when you present.** (25%)
- III. **COURSE PURPOSE:** We will begin the class by examining essays written by published modern and contemporary writers in order to learn how to discuss essays and to develop a sense of what makes them good according to contemporary standards, as well as personal taste. Then we will turn our attention to essays written by you and examine them in the same way. The purpose of the class is to help you become a better writer of creative non-fiction by reading the works of

established writers and understanding what makes their essays successful, and by giving you exercises that make you write specific essays to help you understand what to avoid doing in them (such as preaching, generalizing, using abstract language or clichés) and what to do to make them work (such as showing rather than telling, conveying specific experiences with concrete images, using a natural voice). In other words, in this class you are writing so that others can connect with what you want to say. Although what you will write is personal, in that it is based on personal experience, the standard of the writing is not private. You are here to create texts that will mean something to others and not just to you.

- IV. **ATTENDANCE**: If you don't come to class, there basically is no class, since class is about your writing and your comments about your classmates' writing. **Having more than 3 unexcused absences will result in a failing participation grade.**
- V. **LATE WORK**: All assignments are due on the dates specified. Lateness will result in a lower grade. If you cannot complete an assignment on time, you must see me **before** it is due.
- VI. **FINAL NOTE**: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disabilities Services (6583) as soon as possible.

2001.001, Abella

Course Calendar:

Jan. 10 Introduction
12 [TTT] p.36-46; [WT] p.2-14; [WCN] p.1-4, 6-7
14 [WT] p.20-30, 163-178; 327-38; [TTT] p.47-55; [WCN] p.38-44, 45-49

17 King's Birthday--No Class
19 **Literary Memoir:** [TTT] p.1-9, 31-32; 171-75; [WCN] p.327-330;
[WT] p.200-08; 208-10
21 workshop

24 workshop
26 workshop
28 workshop

Feb. 31 workshop
2 workshop
4 workshop

7 workshop
9 workshop
11 Lincoln's Birthday—No Class

14 **Biographical Essay:** [WCN] p.85-94; 256-69; [WT] p.275-80, 366-7; [TTT] p.187-88
JOURNALS DUE (4 essays)
16 workshop
18 workshop

21 workshop
23 workshop
25 workshop

Mar. 28 workshop
2 workshop
4 workshop

7 workshop
9 **Personal Essay:** [WCN] p. 38-44; [WT] p.237-50, 255-62, 364-6;
[TTT] p.213-22, 222-23
11 workshop

14 SPRING BREAK
16 SPRING BREAK
18 SPRING BREAK

21 workshop; **JOURNALS DUE (4 essays)**
23 workshop
25 workshop

28 workshop
30 workshop
Apr. 1 workshop

4 workshop
6 workshop
8 **Literary Journalism:** [WCN] p.223-9; [TTT] p.42-3, 24-31, 110-12, 284-8;
[WT] p. 309-14

11 workshop
13 workshop
15 workshop

18 workshop
20 workshop
22 workshop; **JOURNALS DUE (4 essays)**

25 workshop
27 workshop
29 workshop; **PORTFOLIOS DUE**